(b) the steps taken by Government, so far, to increase the proportion of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes employed in the Private Sector; and

(c) the details of the proposals regarding affirmative action for the backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Data on representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes employed in the private sector is not available.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector, and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfill the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In May 2005, 21 captains of industry of the private sector had issued a statement wherein they have committed to expand their activities for disadvantaged persons with regard to scholarships, company-run private schools, partnership with government schools, vocational training in-house as well as in partnership with ITIs, vender development programmes etc. The GoM also considered the opinions of three legal luminaries that a law cannot be enacted for providing reservations in private sector without amending the Constitution.

Grants to old-age home

†3933. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sanctions a grant of Rs. 3.79 lakh every year for subsistence of 25 old people in order to run old-age homes;

(b) whether this amount is not insufficient in view of the level of inflation at present;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase the aforesaid grant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Under the grant-in-aid scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (Plan Scheme), the annual recurring grant (90%) is given to Non Governmental Organisations subject to a maximum amount of Rs. 2,76,412/- for running one old age home with 25 residents.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the grant.

(d) Does not arise.

Displacement of tribals in Andhra Pradesh

3934. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints about the displacement of tribals due to major irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by his Ministry to safeguard the interests of tribals in the areas which are coming under the 5th Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received some complaints from the public and their representatives against the construction of the Polavaram Irrigation Project. The complaints are mainly about technical flaws in the project, non-identification of suitable alternatives and non-observation of Constitutional safeguard provided to tribals under Schedule V of the Constitution and laws like the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. A number of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have also been filed in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in this context. The matter is *sub-judice*.

All proposals for clearance of resettlement and rehabilitation for irrigation projects received in this Ministry are examined to ensure that the Constitutional provisions enshrined in Schedule-V and under PESA are followed so that the interests of tribals are not adversely affected.